

### ABSTRACT

An electrochemical cell having a positive electrode, a negative electrode and an electrolyte is dosed with an additive which acts on the negative electrode to reduce electrolysis and, hence, water consumption of the cell during the course of operation of the cell, in particular when the cell is in a state of overcharge. The additive is arranged to reduce the flow of current between the electrodes when a potential ordinarily sufficient to cause electrolysis of the electrolyte is applied across the electrodes. The additive typically coats the negative electrode to form a barrier in conjunction with gas bubbles evolving from the negative electrode in order to reduce the flow of current to the electrode and/or a reduction in the flow of ions to the negative electrode and/or gas bubbles flowing from the negative electrode.